

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejection, and further examination are requested.

Please note that a certified copy of the priority document is enclosed herewith. As a result, acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Enclosed are clean and marked-up copies of the specification and abstract including the revisions.

Replacement Figure 1 labeled "Prior Art" is included herewith. No new matter has been added to replacement Figure 1. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Murase (US 6,366,732). Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention from Murase.

Further, claims 1-9 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, or to address issues related to patentability, and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Claim 1 is patentable over Murase, since claim 1 recites a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus including, in part, a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a coded program stream into a plurality of elementary streams; and an audio still video object address pointer table for storing address locations of demultiplexed audio still video program streams and storing syntax error information, wherein the demultiplexer is further for performing syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during the demultiplexing of the coded program stream, and storing resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking in the audio still video object address pointer table. Murase fails to disclose or suggest the demultiplexer as recited in claim 1.

Murase discloses a DVD player including a signal processing unit 84, a system controlling unit 93, and an AV decoding unit 85. The AV decoding unit 85 includes a signal

separating unit 86, a video decoder 87, a sub-picture decoder 88, an audio decoder 89 and a picture mixing unit 90. The signal processing unit 84 converts signals read from a DVD into digital data which is input to the system controlling unit 93. The system controlling unit 93 then sends the digital data to the AV decoding unit 85 in units of logical blocks (VOBs). (See column 28, line 54 – column 29 – 34 and Figure 24).

The signal separating unit 86 receives the digital data and classifies the data into management information data, moving picture data, sub-picture data, and audio data. The signal separating unit 86 outputs the moving picture data to the video decoder 87, the management information data, as a management information pack 101, back to the system controlling unit 93, the audio data to the audio decoder 89, and the sub-picture data to the sub-picture decoder 88. (See column 28, line 54 – column 29 – 34 and Figure 24).

The system controlling unit 93 has a highlight information buffer 32 and receives the management information pack 101 from the signal separating unit 86. The management information pack 101 includes PCI general information, trick-play information and highlight information which are decoded by the system controlling unit 93. The highlight information contains highlight general information including a flag that indicates whether there is a change from a previous VOB. If the flag is set to “00”, the system controlling unit 93 knows that the highlight information includes no effective item color information. If the flag is set to “01”, the system controlling unit 93 knows that the present highlight information is effective for the present pack, then the system controlling unit 93 writes effective highlight information to the highlight information buffer 32. If the flag is set to “10”, the system controlling unit 93 knows that the highlight information interleaved in the preceding VOB is also effective in the present VOB, and does not need to be overwritten. If the flag is set to “11”, the system controlling unit 93 overwrites data stored in the highlight information buffer 32 with the highlight information included in the management information pack 101. (See column 16, lines 8-23; column 34, lines 3-45; and Figure 19A).

In the rejection, the situation where the flag is set to “00”, which indicates that the highlight information includes no effective item color information, is indicated as corresponding to syntax error information. However, it is clear from Murase that the flag is previously stored on the DVD and is only read by the system controlling unit 93 after the management information pack 101 is separated from the VOB by the signal separating unit 86 in the AV decoding unit 85.

In other words, the flag is preexisting data on the DVD read by the DVD player. On the other hand, claim 1 recites that the demultiplexer is further for performing syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during the demultiplexing of the coded program stream, and storing resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking in an audio still video object address pointer table. It is apparent that neither the system controlling unit 93 nor the AV decoding unit 85 performs syntax error checking of an audio still video stream during the demultiplexing of the coded program stream and stores resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking in a pointer table. As a result, Murase fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 1.

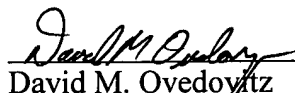
As for claims 8 and 9, they are patentable over Murase for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 1. That is, claims 8 and 9 each recite, in part, performing syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during the demultiplexing of a coded program stream, whereby resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking is stored in an audio still video object address pointer table, which features are not disclosed or suggested by the reference.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-9 are patentable over Murase. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to modify Murase or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-9. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-9 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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